

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A video switcher, comprising:
a plurality of inputs for receiving a respective plurality of input video signals of mixed aspect ratios; and

an a plurality of aspect ratio converter converters integrated within the video switcher and configured for generating respective aspect ratio converted background and preset signals based on the input video signals; and

means for providing both the aspect ratio converted background and preset signals and the input video signals as outputs.

~~wherein the plurality of inputs are capable of receiving a plurality of signals of mixed aspect ratios, the switcher adapted to combine one or more of the plurality of signals to form a composite video signal.~~

2. (Currently amended) A The video switcher of claim 1, further comprising:

~~a plurality of inputs; and~~

~~a switcher which receives~~ means for receiving signals having a converted and a native signal format and combines; and

means for combining the received signals having the converted and the native signal format into a composite effect.

3. (Currently amended) The video switcher of claim 1, wherein the switcher is adapted to control parameters including at least one of pan and scan and letterbox.

4. (Currently amended) The video switcher of claim 1, wherein the switcher allows integrated control of Up Convert and Down Convert processes.

5. (Currently amended) The video switcher of claim 1, wherein the switcher is adapted to control downstream switching between converted and non-converted signal formats.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (New) The video switcher of claim 1, further comprising means for combining one or more of the plurality of the input video signals to form a composite video signal.

8. (New) The video switcher of claim 1, further comprising means for converting the aspect ratio of any two selected input video signals via the plurality of aspect ratio converters.

9. (New) The video switcher of claim 1, further comprising a crosspoint matrix provided before the plurality of aspect ratio converters.

10. (New) The video switcher of claim 1, further comprising a crosspoint matrix and a deserializer module provided before the plurality of aspect ratio converters.

11. (New) The video switcher of claim 1, further comprising a deserializer module and a key processor provided before the plurality of aspect ratio converters.